

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 FPC-01 OES-03 OMB-01 SAM-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 /076 W

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R 231430Z SEPT 75

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2443

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THESSALONIKI 0569

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECEM, SNEV, PGOV, ELAB, GR

SUBJECT: ETHYL-HELLAS -- PIER 5 IS CLOSED AND

"COORDINATING COMMITTEE" CALLS FOR COMPANY'S OUSTER

REF: THESSALONIKI 0559

1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT CRANE OPERATORS HAD REFUSED TO RETURN TO PIER 5, SITE OF ETHYL STORAGE FACILITIES IN THESSALONIKI PORT, BECAUSE OF ALLEGED LEAD POISONING IN ATMOSPHERE. NOW, OTHER WORKERS HAVE FOLLOWED CRANE OPERATORS AND PIER 5 IS CLOSED WITH EXCEPTION OF ETHYL FACILITIES WHICH ARE OPERATED BY COMPANY'S EMPLOYEES. CLOSURE OF REMAINDER OF PIER IS RESULT OF DOUBTS EXPRESSED BY LEADER OF UNIVERSITY TEAM MEASURING POLLUTION IN PORT, PROFESSOR EDIPIDES, OVER MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF TIME WORKERS CAN SAFELY WORK ON PIER. IN WRITTEN REPORT UNIVERSITY TEAM SAID 8 HOURS WAS SAFE, BUT ACCORDING LOCAL LABOR LEADER, SPIROS PASALOGLOU, IN MEETING REPORTED REFTEL EDIPIDES CHANGED HIS OPINION AND SAID 2 AND HALF HOURS IS SAFE MAXIMUM. THIS IS WHAT LED TO UPROAR AND REFUSAL OF OTHER WORKERS TO WORK. AGAIN, ACCORDING TO PASALOGLOU, CONFIDENTIAL  
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WORKERS ARE NOW WAITING CLARIFICATION AND CATEGORIC ASSURANCES

FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT IS SAFE TO BE ON PIER 5.

2. ON POLITICAL SIDE, A CITIZENS "COORDINATING COMMITTEE" FROM SEVEN MUNICIPALITIES ADJACENT TO THESSALONIKI HAS BEEN FORMED, APPARENTLY WITH THE HELP OF LEFTIST MEMBERS OF THE THESSALONIKI CITY COUNCIL, TO AGITATE FOR ETHYL'S REMOVAL FROM GREECE. COMMITTEE PUT UP LARGE NUMBER OF POSTERS IN THESSALONIKI AND SURROUNDING TOWNS DEPICTING GREEK WORKERS PUSHING ETHYL AND ITS SUPPORTER, UNCLE SAM, OUT OF GREECE. IN MEETING ORGANIZED SEPT. 21 BY COMMITTEE IN NEO KORDELIO, THE COMMUNITY CLOSEST TO THE ETHYL PLANT, "SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE" WAS PRESENTED ON THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ETHYL'S PROXIMITY AND RESOLUTION PASSED CALLING FOR ITS REMOVAL FROM GREECE. KKE (EXTERIOR) SEEMS TO BE PRINCIPAL PARTY BEHIND COMMITTEE WITH PARTY MEMBERS AS MAYORS OF NEO KORDELIO AND AMBELOKIPI, TWO OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MUNICIPALITIES INVOLVED.  
BRENNAN

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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